

House Resolution 15 - Introduced

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 15

BY SALMON, GUSTAFSON, KURTH, M. SMITH, BROWN-POWERS,
KACENA, OURTH, BRECKENRIDGE, LUNDGREN, SORESENSEN,
THOMPSON, HITE, BENNETT, JENEARY, GAINES, A. MEYER,
McCONKEY, and JACOBSEN

1 A Resolution designating the twenty-seventh day of June
2 as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day and
3 the month of June as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury
4 Awareness Month.

5 WHEREAS, all citizens of the United States possess
6 the basic human right to life, liberty, and the pursuit
7 of happiness; and

8 WHEREAS, the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit
9 of happiness includes the opportunity for citizens to
10 enjoy physical, mental, and emotional well-being; and

11 WHEREAS, the diagnosis known as post-traumatic
12 stress disorder was first defined by the American
13 Psychiatric Association in 1980 to more accurately
14 understand and treat veterans who had endured severe
15 operational combat stress; and

16 WHEREAS, invisible wounds have historically been
17 unjustly portrayed as a mental illness caused by a
18 preexisting flaw of character or ability, and the word
19 "disorder" carries a stigma that perpetuates this
20 misconception which can discourage the injured from
21 seeking proper and timely medical treatment; and

22 WHEREAS, continuing to refer to invisible wounds as
23 a disorder perpetuates the stigma of and bias against
24 mental illness; and

25 WHEREAS, it has been shown through electro-magnetic

1 imaging that the invisible wound is more accurately
2 described as an injury to the brain which can develop
3 into a disorder; and

4 WHEREAS, severe post-traumatic stress injury is a
5 disabling wound to the brain which can occur following
6 exposure to extremely traumatic events such as, but
7 not exclusive to, interpersonal violence, combat,
8 life-threatening accidents, or natural disasters; and

9 WHEREAS, referring to the condition as
10 post-traumatic stress injury is less stigmatizing
11 and viewed as more honorable, and this designation
12 can favorably influence those affected and encourage
13 them to seek treatment without fear of retribution or
14 shame; and

15 WHEREAS, all citizens suffering post-traumatic
16 stress injuries deserve our compassion and
17 consideration and those brave men and women of the
18 United States Armed Forces who have received these
19 wounds in operational action against an enemy of the
20 United States further deserve our special tribute and
21 acknowledgment; and

22 WHEREAS, post-traumatic stress injury is a disabling
23 yet reversible wound that is treatable, and timely
24 treatment can diminish complications and prevent
25 suicides among the injured; NOW THEREFORE,

26 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
27 That the Iowa House of Representatives designates the
28 twenty-seventh day of June each year as Post-Traumatic
29 Stress Injury Awareness Day; and

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Iowa House of

1 Representatives designates the month of June as
2 Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Iowa House of
4 Representatives urges the Iowa Department of Public
5 Health and the Department of Veterans Affairs to
6 continue working to educate victims of interpersonal
7 violence, combat, life-threatening accidents, or
8 natural disasters and their families, as well as
9 the general public, about the causes, symptoms, and
10 treatment of post-traumatic stress injuries; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this
12 Resolution be transmitted to Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds
13 for appropriate proclamation and execution and to
14 Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate for appropriate
15 publication and preservation.